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Department of State

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ACTION IO-11

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DEPT PASS TO DEPT

FOR SECRETARY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL FROM AMB MOYNIHAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY M.D.C. / MA DATE 3.13.81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSED EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

CLASSIFIED DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, PFOR

SUBJ: JDL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DIPLOMATS IN NEWYORK

1. IN EARLY DECEMBER, THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE (JDL) ANNOUNCED A CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATING AND HARRASSING DIPLOMATS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE UN RESOLUTION TERMING ZIONISM A FORM OF RACISM. THEY HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS THEIR WORD: SINCE THAT TIME JDL ACTIVISTS HAVE CARRIED ON A CONTINUING SERIES OF THREATS AND OVERT ACTS SUCH AS ROCK-THROWING, SIT-INS, AND MOST RECENTLY THE PLANTING OF BOMBS AT THE UNITED NATIONS, IRAQI MISSIONS AND POLISH CONSULATE. WHILE NO ONE HAS YET BEEN APPREHENDED FOR THE BOMBS, FBI IS CONVINCED JDL IS RESPONSIBLE.

2. ON DECEMBER 13, INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF JDL SENT THREATENING LEAFLET TO SELECTED UN REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCING CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT AGAINST THEM. (PAKISTAN, BENIN, THAILAND, BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, INDIA, USSR, MONGOLIA AND EGYPT.) THE LEAFLET WAS CIRCULATED AS A UN DOCUMENT, AT THE REQUEST OF INDIA. ON DECEMBER 21, POLICE

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ARRESTED THREE JDL ACTIVISTS FOR THROWING BRICKS AT WINDOWS OF CUBAN AND EGYPTIAN MISSIONS. CASES WERE TRIED IN NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT AND ADJOURNED CONTEMPLATING DISMISSAL. WINDOWS HAVE BEEN BROKEN AT MONGOLIA, INDIAN AND BULGARIAN MISSIONS. ON DECEMBER 31, A GROUP OF JDL ACTIVISTS OCCUPIED VATICAN OBSERVER'S OFFICE. ALTHOUGH FBI AS WELL AS POLICE WERE PRESENT, NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. ON JANUARY 12, 3 FOOT-LONG PIPE BOMBS WERE FOUND NEAR UN DAG NAMHARSKJOLD LIBRARY. NY POST RECEIVED PHONE CALL STATING THAT RESISTANCE STRIKE WING OF JDL TOOK CREDIT FOR PLANTING BOMBS. ON JANUARY 13 BOMB WAS FOUND IN ALLEY NEXT TO IRAQ MISSION. WCBS RADIO RECEIVED PHONE CALL STATING THAT JDL ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY. ON JANUARY 16, BOMB EXPLODED OUTSIDE POLISH CONSULATE. FORTUNATELY THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH OFFICE OF US ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK REGARDING THESE INCIDENTS. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR FILING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THREAT-ENING LEAFLET. US ATTORNEY HAS ALSO DECLINED TO PROSECUTE CURRENT ARREST CASES IN FAVOR OF ACTION BY LOCAL COURTS. ON JANUARY 12 AMBASSADOR WHITE TOLD US ATTORNEY CAHILL THAT USUN FOUND IT HARD TO SEE WHY THERE WAS NO FEDERAL ACTION. SHE ASKED WHETHER ANY ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO LINK LEAFLET TO THOSE ARRESTED, AND POINTED OUT THAT FEDERAL ACTION WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT DETERRENT IN EYES OF USUN AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

4. BY THREATENING "HARRASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION", AND CARRYING OUT THEIR THREATS, JDL APPEARS TO BE ACTUALLY CHALLENGING FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, SINCE THE FEDERAL ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS SPECIFICALLY MAKES THOSE ACTIONS FEDERAL OFFENSES. SO FAR THEY HAVE CARRIED THE DAY, AND THEIR CHALLENGE STANDS UNMET.

5. THE REASON FOR THE FEDERAL ACT IS THAT THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST FOREIGN OFFICIALS BECOME A MATTER OF SOME IMPORT IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS. SUCH IS MOST CERTAINLY THE CASE IN THE TINDER BOX OF THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY.

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6. I WOULD HOPE THAT WE SHALL NOT WAIT UNTIL THERE IS
A SERIOUS INCIDENT, WITH POSSIBLE DEATH AND WIDESPREAD
DESTRUCTION, BEFORE TAKING FEDERAL ACTION.

NOYNIHAN